

Day of Pentecost

May 19, 2024 A.D.

10:30 A.M.



GRACE

Evangelical Lutheran Church



Christ-Centered

Mission-Driven

Traditionally-Grounded

Congregationally-Focused

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Day of Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude..... Please Observe Silence For Meditation

- * Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

PRAISE

- * Opening Hymn **O Day Full of Grace** **LBW 161**
- * The Kyrie page 57
- * The Hymn of Praise.....*This is the Feast*..... Page 60
- * The Salutation and Prayer of the Day.....page 62

EQUIP

The First Lesson.....Ezekiel 37:1-14

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm 139:1-16 Bulletin pg. 4

The Second Lesson Acts 2:1-21

L: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

- * The Holy Gospel.....John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- Children's Sermon Pastor East
- The Message....."The Holy Spirit – Then and Now"Pastor East
- Hymn of the Day.....**Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness** **WOV 684**
- * The Nicene Creed.....page 64
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GIVE

The Offering The People of God

- * The Offertory and Prayerpages 66, 67

RECEIVE

- * The Great Thanksgiving..... page 68
- * The Eucharistic Prayer & The Lord's Prayerpages 69, 71
- * **The Distribution of the Holy Sacrament**
- * Post-Communion Canticle.....*Thank the Lord*..... page 72
- * Post-Communion Prayer
- * The Benediction

SEND

- * The Sending Hymn ***Filled With the Spirit's Power** **LBW 160**
(*Sung to tune, "Abide With Me")

- * The Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Be the Church! **All: Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

* = Stand Hymnals in Pew Rack: LBW = Green WOV = Blue TCH = Burgundy

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP at Grace Church this morning as we gather to worship the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit in truth. As you entered the sanctuary today, you received this bulletin containing the order for worship and announcements. Please also notice the Prayer List where you will find a listing of all the known prayer concerns. You are invited to use this as a guide for your personal prayers throughout the coming week. If you need information about our congregation or if you'd like to update your information, make sure to fill out the yellow Worship Today Form and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. If you have a prayer concern, indicate that on your Worship Today Form at the bottom or on the reverse side. If you are seeking a Church Home or would like more information about Grace, please contact the Church Office this week.

THIS WEEK'S THEME: The Holy Spirit has always existed; the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity of God. He was present at Creation, and is present now. Prior to Jesus living on the earth in human form, the Holy Spirit was active doing God's work. Jesus taught his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them in a new way after His departure from them. He did, and He is still working in us and among us today!

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." ⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

PSALM 139:1-16

¹LORD, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

²**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

³Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁴**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

⁵Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

⁶**Where can I go then from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?**

⁷If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

⁸**If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

⁹even there your hand will lead me
and your right hand hold me fast.

¹⁰**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
and the light around me turn to night,"**

¹¹darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike.

¹²**For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

¹³I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁴**My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.**

¹⁵Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.

¹⁶**How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
How great is the sum of them!**

SECOND LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own

native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.” ¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:26-16:15

²⁶ “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. ^{16:1} “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. ³ And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you. “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Next Sunday’s Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; John 3:1-17. Readings are based on the recommended use of the English Standard Version (ESV) by the North American Lutheran Church and Lectionary of Sola Publishing. Used by Permission.

GRACE PRAYER LIST

In the Grace Church Family: Jeffrey Bivens, Rick & Cindy Bivens, Glenda Childers, Pat Dietz, Sheila Drum, Allen and Kay Hatchett, Irene Heavner, Lorene Heavner, Rachel Heavner, Larry & Brenda Jarrett, Martha Johnson, Faye Lane, Phil Leatherman, Betty Matheson, Jane Moss, Christine Norman, Tricia and Dan Panek, Debi Pisko, Michael Pisko, Stephen Pisko, Helen Smith, Ethan Starnes, Richard & Sandi Tallant, Libby Travis, Shirley Warlick, Carolyn & Scott Whisnant.

Nursing Home: Juanita Haas (Trinity Village), Ted Whisnant (Trinity Village),

Friends and Relatives in our Prayers: Pray for Peace in Israel and the World, New Covenant Lutheran Mission Church, Bobby Aderholdt, Jimmy Aderholdt, LeAnn Buckwell, Caleb Bumgarner & Family, Travis Bumgardner, Becky Cartee, Jessica Cassels & Family, Dennis & Evelyn Childers, Harold Crouse, Dennis D'Alessio, Julie Foster, Guy Franzen, Wendy Hannah, Larry Heavner, J.C., Michele Kirkland, Peggy Klutz, Lily Rose, Sgt. Ryan McMullen and shift, Greg Masters, Chris Medlin, Larry Milsaps, Jenny Mulcahy, Katie Patton, Angela Sanford, Scott Speagle, Zachary Speagle and Amber, Cozel Spencer, Shanie Spencer, Steven, Sue, Monica Thomas, United States of America; Faye White, and especially the families of those who have given their lives in the service of our country and those who continue to protect our freedoms and for all members of our Armed Forces.

(Names are left on the prayer list for 30 days unless the office is notified otherwise.)

PLEASE WELCOME PASTOR BRACK EAST who is leading worship this morning.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE PENTECOST, the “birthday of the church.”

TODAY IS FOSTER CARE SUNDAY! Each year, Catawba County Social Services asks churches in the community to help spread awareness by participating in Foster Care Sunday. There are now over 180 children in foster care in Catawba County, and there are only 63 licensed foster, adoptive, and kinship families in the county. If you would like to get involved, please contact Trista Newton, Catawba County Social Services at 828-695-4553.

THE LEADERSHIP MINISTRY BOARD will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow evening, May 20th at 6:00 p.m.** All Board Members are urged to attend.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! **Vacation Bible School will be held on Sunday, June 9th – Thursday, June 13th at Plateau United Methodist Church from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Set-up will be at Plateau on June 7th from 5:30 pm – 7:00 p.m.** The theme this year is “Campfire Light.” There will be classes and activities for every age. Please contact Stormy Shull if you are available to volunteer.

ASHURE (FORMERLY ECCCM) **food ask for the month of May is pet food** (National Pet Month). Ashure is also running low on grocery bags. Your donations make a real difference right here in Catawba County!

THE GRACE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO THE MISSION DISTRICT FAMILY AND YOUTH MINISTRY EVENT

– New Jerusalem and St. Martin’s Lutheran Church invite families and student ministries to join them **today from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at New Jerusalem for Mission Frenzy!** This will be a hands-on activity that involves giving back to the community by helping organizations that provide services to those in need.

“How deep I find your thoughts, O God! How great is the sum of them!”
Psalm 139:16

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

20 – Michael Norman 22 – Tawanna Jarrett
21 – Mike Smith 24 – Luke Setzer

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today: **DAY OF PENTECOST**
 Foster Care Sunday
 9:30A – Sunday School
 10:30A - Worship Celebration
Monday: 6:00P – Leadership Ministry Board Meeting
Next Sunday: **HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY**
 9:30A – Sunday School
 10:30A – Worship Celebration
Monday: **Memorial Day** (Church Office Closed)

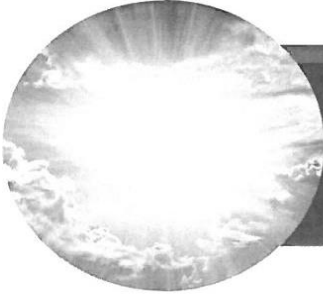
The Ministers.....The People of Grace Lutheran Church
Pastor
Organist..... Sandi Tallant
Administrative Assistant Pam Tallent
Leadership Board President Tim Eckard
Youth LeaderStormy Shull
Lector Alan Shull
Communion Assistants.....Alan and Stormy Shull
Ushers Jack Wilfong and James Hall
Altar Preparation..... Herb and Libby Travis
Offering Tabulators Todd Childers and Alan Shull
Custodian Chris Abernethy



Table Talk II

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

The Day of Pentecost | May 19, 2024



JOHN 14:23-31

"...we [Jesus and the Father] will come to him and make our home with him." (Vs. 23)

What can we say about heaven? Is it a physical location far and away above us according to the words, "and they looked up to the heavens?" Is it a place of thought or of hope? Or, perhaps, we can say that heaven is where God dwells... that place where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit abide. If such be the case, then, by your loving God, heaven is yours. Jesus has promised it: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (vs. 25). Wherever God dwells, there is heaven. In the love of Jesus, you have heaven.

This word "dwells" or "abides" or "makes his home with" is popular with John. The Greek word "MENO" and its various forms occurs sixty-eight times in the writings of John; forty times in his gospel itself. This compares to only 118 uses of the word in the entire New Testament, with twelve of those uses being in the three synoptic gospels. As the evangelist John uses this word, it brings with it a sense of permanence and longevity. "To abide" is to stand fast despite all life's changing circumstances. So, as the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit come to abide with you in the love of Jesus, their presence (the very presence of the Triune God) holds constant;

it is steadfast. Their presence is not only the presence of heaven (God dwelling with you) but it is also the immovable and unchangeable rock—the Rock of your Salvation (Ps. 89:26 & others).

If you have ever sung the hymn "Abide with Me," the lyrics are full of references to the impermanence of human life and circumstances while the presence of the Lord stands permanent and steadfast. Lyrics such as, "When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me." Or, perhaps, "Change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me." In the love of Jesus, you have heaven and your abiding Lord.

Table Talk: Discuss the presence of heaven in your life and what contradicts it.

Pray: Heavenly Father, abide with me. Amen



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